

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] As used herein, the term large diameter waveguide generally refers to any type waveguide having a larger diameter (or other cross-sectional dimension if not round) than a conventional optical fiber, which typically has a diameter less than 400 um. For example, one type of large diameter waveguide that may be spliced is a sensor element having one or more gratings formed therein, such as those described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/455,868 entitled "Large Diameter Optical Waveguide, Grating, and Laser," filed December 6, 1999, now U.S. Patent 6,982,996, and hereby incorporated by reference. Such sensor elements are rigid structures unlike optical fibers and have a core similar in size to that of a conventional optical fiber but may have [[an]] a cladding with an outer diameter of 3 mm or more surrounding the core. Such large diameter optical waveguide sensor elements may be formed by using fiber drawing techniques now know or later developed that provide the resultant desired dimensions for the core and the outer dimensions.